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3 September 1953

VIA : Chief, Geographic Research
Acting Chief, Geography Division
Chief, Staff on Soviet Mapping Intelligence

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1. Purpose

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A detailed examination was undertaken with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the status of work on the project, an analysis of problems in the production of reports, and the measures required to resolve them for the most fruitful completion of the project.

2. Activities

a. The status of progress in the preparation of five new major reports, the revision of two provisional reports, the preparation of five incidental technical reports, and a technical glossary of Russian geodetic, photogrammetric and electronic terms was examined in detail.

b. Other activities included obtaining a substantive and physical inventory of reference files, translations, and abstracts developed in the course of the project (Annex I); and an examination of the current status and future prospects of the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]

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3. Findings

a. Progress in report production although substantial was not considered to be entirely adequate for its satisfactory completion by 30 September 1953, unless several problems were resolved. Work was retarded by the decline in morale and the professional and administrative confusion that arose from the resignation of [REDACTED]. The expeditious assignment of technical report preparation was unduly delayed, and substantial segments of report production were delayed because of the shortage of typing personnel.

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b. The current status and future prospects of the [REDACTED] are inextricably interwoven with that of the [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] is about to lose the bulk of its [REDACTED] personnel with Russian area and language specialization. Its sole personnel resource will be foreign nationals whose tenure is impermanent, since some are here on visitors visas; if [REDACTED] departs there is no one of sufficient stature who can replace him either in the [REDACTED]

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DOCUMENT NO. [REDACTED]
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED [REDACTED]
CLASS. CHANGED TO: [REDACTED]
NEXT REVIEW DATE: [REDACTED]
AUTH: [REDACTED]
DATE: [REDACTED]

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The prospects of the [REDACTED] are grim, and their dissolution will represent a significant loss to U. S. scientific and research capabilities in the fields of geodesy.

4. Action Taken

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25X1A5a1 a. The [REDACTED] was urged to obtain the services of [REDACTED] recently retired Chief of the Leveling Section from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, to undertake an evaluation of Soviet primary leveling. The [REDACTED] agreed 25X1A5a1 to allow me to obtain the assistance of [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1 consultant to the [REDACTED] on higher geodesy, to prepare a comparative evaluation of Soviet and U. S. training and Soviet-English language textbooks on higher geodesy, for the revision of the report on Soviet education in geodesy.

b. A summary of progress and status of production was prepared (see Annex II) and remaining tasks outlined. This clarified the apportionment of the remaining workload to a point that promises a satisfactory completion of work by 30 September 1953. There are, however, two exceptions in which the work may remain undone. The first, and most important, is that no adequate estimate will be possible of the importance of the role of "poligonometry" in advancing the progress of Soviet surveying and mapping. American practices reject the "subtended traverse" or open traverses as inadequate for geodetic surveying; project information on the extent of poligonometry in the USSR is insufficient to permit a quantitative estimate of its significance. The second unfinished item consists of a number of detailed technical translations, abstracts, reports and summaries prepared by Russian language specialists whose English is inadequate. These materials will be available as unedited reference items for working-level personnel.

c. In order to cut down the mass of technical detail in the reports, I requested that emphasis be laid on qualitative and quantitative significance as it bears on Soviet capabilities. Mass technical details will be referenced in an annotated bibliography at the end of each topical section.

d. Instructions again were repeated for the evaluation of information and the adequacy of data, and gaps in intelligence.

e. The CIA and OSURF inventory lists of books were reconciled.

5. Unfinished Business

25X1A5a1 a. [REDACTED] feel a moral obligation to complete the project work to their satisfaction over and beyond the minima required under the contract.

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b. [redacted] will concentrate on bringing up his provisional report on "Geodetic Gravimetry in the USSR" to incorporate much new data and new advancements in Soviet gravimetry. He will need to retain the safe for an extended period beyond the termination of the contract. [redacted] insists on editing the remaining major technical summaries and translations that will not be done before 30 September, and elaborating the report on Soviet cartography. This will be facilitated by [redacted] employment as a part-time consultant to [redacted] on the OSI project. In this connection [redacted] requested the transmittal of an extra set of cards which will be of value to the [redacted] project as well as in the continuation of her work on our project. I admired their public spirit and zeal, but I reminded them that because of legal technicalities we would insist on the completion of work by 30 September.

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6. Other Miscellaneous Information

a. There has been a pronounced shift in gravimetric research to Leningrad. A new theory of reduction has been proposed and its application tested in field experiments. Results are not yet available.

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b. [redacted] interest in a comprehensive, current catalog of Soviet research institutes and laboratories was heightened on learning from [redacted] OSI, that no systematic register of institutes exists. [redacted] feels that the massiveness and complexity of the problem deserves at least a similar program to the Biographic and Industrial Register technique. Much information exists but it remains unsystematic and uncoordinated.

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c. According to [redacted] there were "millions" of Russian books captured and stored at the [redacted] where plans were being formulated to organize a center for Russian studies.

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d. [redacted] has indicated that the Russians will appear at the Xth General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics at Rome, Italy, during the latter half of September, 1954. The reasons and significance of the appearance of the Russians can only be properly studied by the presence of [redacted] who knows some of the Russians expected to attend.

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2 enclosures:

1 - Annex I

1 - Annex II

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